DAWN

METRO South

KARACHI Wednesday, January 7, 2026

KARACHI

Sunset	05:58pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	07:17am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	12°C
Maximum	25°C
Humidity	40%
Outlook	Sunny

Pakistan to test depth ahead of T20 World Cup in SL series
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Citizen kills 'mugger' in North Nazimabad

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A suspected robber was shot dead by a citizen at Landi Kotel Chowrangi in North Nazimabad on Tuesday, officials said.

They said that his accomplice, a woman, was also taken into custody from the scene by police.

Central SSP Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqi said a citizen, identified as Moeed Khan Lashari, who was travelling in a car, stopped near the roundabout to purchase fruit. In the meantime, an armed robber, later identified as 30-year-old Rizwan, emerged there on a motorcycle with a woman as his pillion rider.

He held the citizen at gunpoint and demanded his cell phone and cash, said the officer. However, the citizen took out his licensed pistol and opened fire, resulting in the killing of Rizwan on the spot.

The police rushed to the scene and arrested the woman suspect, identified as Shama Ibrahim.

The body was shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

Meanwhile, three suspected robbers were taken into custody after an intense exchange of firing with law enforcement personnel in Defence Housing Society's Phase VII, adds PPI.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Danish, son of Sohail, Nihal, son of Shafi, and Sohail ,son of Derek.

Upon searching the suspects, two pistols with live rounds were recovered.

The police also seized a motorcycle and multiple mobile phones from the suspects at the scene.

The police have initiated a full investigation into the matter to uncover further details and possible links to other criminal activities.

BLACK ash is left after a pile of garbage was partially burned in a Nazimabad locality. The open burning of garbage creates significant air pollution and poses serious health hazards for humans. —Fahim Siddiqi / White Star

Govt to register FIRs against those burning garbage on roads

Mayor suggests financial penalties to curb environmental damage caused by illegal garbage disposal

By Imran Ayub

KARACHI: The Sindh government on Tuesday announced that it would register FIRs against anyone found to be involved in burning garbage on roads.

While authorities usually blame an increasing number of organised scavengers — who privately collect waste from various parts of the city — for setting the garbage ablaze, it is an open secret that certain officials patronise the burning of garbage, or its dumping in drains, because it saves transportation costs and helps them pocket the money.

A decision to bring criminal cases against those found burning garbage was taken at a meeting of the Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB).

The meeting was chaired by Local Government Minister Nasir Hussain Shah and attended by Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab, LG secretary, SSWMB Managing Director Tariq Ali Nizamani, town chairmen and others.

When contacted, Mayor Wahab, who is also the chairman of SSWMB, told *Dawn* that the practice of burning garbage is largely carried out by private waste collectors, who either set it on fire or dump it into drains.

"I think we should also impose financial penalties on those who carry out such illegal practice which causes environmental damage and badly affect our drainage system," he said.

According to a statement issued after the meeting, the SSWMB MD briefed the gathering, which decided that FIRs would be registered against anyone involved in burning garbage, regardless of their affiliation with any organisation.

Addressing the meeting, the LG minister said the companies awarded contracts must have adequate manpower and machinery, and that vehicles fitted with trackers must operate 24 hours a day.

According to the statement, he asked the SSWMB to strengthen its coordination with UCs and towns. He added that laws are being formulated to empower vice chairmen and UCs. He also emphasised the need to further strengthen coordination between UC and towns.

Data shared by an SSWMB spokesperson suggested that nearly a quarter of the city's daily garbage does not reach landfill sites.

Recently, MD Nizamani had publicly said that Karachi generates more than 14,800 tonnes of solid and municipal waste each day, surpassing the waste levels of cities such as Mumbai, Delhi, and Dhaka. The Central district alone produces over 3,000 tonnes per day, the highest among the city's seven districts, he added.

However, the data shows that only about 10,000 to 12,000 tonnes of waste reach landfill sites daily.

"There are several societies and walled housing projects where private garbage collectors operate. They collect waste, sort out valuables for resale, and then burn the remaining refuse or dump it into drains for disposal," said the spokesperson.

One of the town chairmen in the East district welcomed the decision but questioned its practicability.

He said there was a "serious disconnect" between the SSWMB and town municipal administrations, which hampers the smooth and effective delivery of cleanliness services.

"When it comes to the registration of FIRs, the local police are involved. I am not sure how this would work or who would coordinate all three parties — town administrations, the SSWMB and the police.

"It requires strong coordination, which is unfortunately lacking in our local government system," he said.

KMC challenges sealing of cotton exchange building in high court

'Unlawful' sealing order is nothing but a preposterous tactic to usurp the heritage property, SHC told

By Ishaq Tanoli

KARACHI: The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) on Tuesday approached the Sindh High Court against sealing of the Karachi Cotton Exchange building and forcibly ejecting all tenants/occupants of the historical structure.

The KMC submitted that the impugned sealing order had been jointly issued by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) without issuing any notice to the petitioner for commencement of any proceedings for declaring the subject property as evacuee trust property.

The petitioner further contended that the ETPB and FIA lacked jurisdiction to declare any property as evacuee trust property since the same was no longer a federal subject and subsequently, a provincial law on the subject matter had also been enacted in 2019.

Citing the ministry of interior, ministry of religious affairs & interfaith harmony, ETPB, FIA, chief secretary of Sindh and others as respondents, the KMC filed two petitions in the SHC impugning the sealing order and subsequent registration of an FIR.

Representing the petitioner, advocate Haider Waleed along with mayor of Karachi Murtaza Wahab argued that Dec 12 ex-parte sealing order was unlawful and without jurisdiction and the building had been sealed on a false pretext of its title being vested with the federal government.

They asserted that the mala fide actions of the sealing and usurping the subject property were conducted by the FIA through an unlawful raid, barging into the building and ejecting all tenants/occupants through brute force, abuse of power and in an oppressive/unconstitutional manner.

The lawyers also contended that no prior notice was issued to the petitioner on the subject matter and even otherwise, neither the ETPB nor the FIA had jurisdiction to declare any property as evacuee trust property or to intervene with the peaceful/lawful possession of the same.

They claimed that impugned sealing order was nothing but a farcical and preposterous tactic to usurp the property by the federation despite the fact that matters pertaining to evacuee property no longer fall within the domain of the parliament in the wake of the 18th Amendment and subsequent enactment of the Sindh Evacuee Trust Properties (Management & Disposal) Act, 2019.

They argued that upon passing of such act, any evacuee trust property in the province of Sindh would exclusively stand vested in the province of Sindh and not in the federal government/ETPB.

They further maintained that impugned sealing order was utterly unconstitutional, wholly without jurisdiction and nothing but an attempt to encroach upon the legislative and executive functions of Sindh.

The counsel argued that the Karachi Cotton Association (KCA) was the lessee to the subject property granted by the KMC and evidenced by the duly registered conveyance deed dated July 22, 1936 and after expiry of initial lease granted for 99 years, the same was renewed by the petitioner Nov 19, 1982 for a further period of 99 years till 2081.

They also submitted that subsequent

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Akbar Road bike market shut for fourth day as traders await settlement

Shopkeepers say they have paid Rs5,000 each in fines, file affidavits pledging compliance with SOPs

By Sumair Abdullah

KARACHI: It has been the fourth day since district authorities sealed over 100 shops in the Akbar Road motorcycle market over encroachment violations. However, after submitting written assurances of compliance with standard operating procedures (SOPs) to the district administration, shopkeepers are hoping their businesses will reopen soon.

Akbar Road, commonly known as Akbar Market, is one of the largest hubs for buying and selling motorcycles in the metropolis. On a normal day, the road remains jam-packed due to motorcycles being displayed by shopkeepers along both sides of the road and footpaths, making it difficult for commuters and residents of adjacent areas to move freely.

Residents of the adjacent locality said that every year, during anti-encroachment drives, the district administration seizes motorcycles and stalls set up on roads and footpaths, after which traffic can move freely. However, they added that this situation rarely lasts even a week, as encroachments soon reappear.

During a visit to the market on Tuesday, *Dawn* observed that the scene was markedly different; shops on both sides of the road were sealed, and employees and shop owners were seen sitting outside their closed shops, waiting to reopen after submitting affidavits to the district commissioner's office, South.

'Significant financial losses'

Karachi Motorcycle Dealer Association Chairman Muhammad Ahsan Gujjar told *Dawn* that on Jan 3, the district administration had sealed at least 95 shops over encroachment as they were displaying bikes on the road and footpath.

He added that he had spoken to the assistant commissioner South, who assured him that after submitting affidavits pledging not to violate SOPs in the future, the shops would be reopened and de-sealed soon.

Referring to the losses being suffered by traders due to the sealing of shops, Mr Gujjar said that daily between 1,500 and 2,000 new motorcycles are sold in the market. He added that this activity used to generate millions of rupees for the government in the form of sales tax, registration fees and transfer fees.

"Today is the fourth day since the shops were sealed, and an estimated loss of millions of rupees is being incurred," he claimed.

While responding to a query on whether the district administration had informed shopkeepers in advance about the encroachment drive, the market association president, Aqeel Sheikh, said that shopkeepers had been informed earlier, and motorcycles were removed from the roads. However, he claimed that the

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SHOP owners and workers wait outside their Akbar Road outlets on Tuesday.—Shakil Adil / White Star

CTD gets custody of 'BLA men' in explosives case

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) has remanded three suspected terrorists, said to be associated with the proscribed Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), in the custody of the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) in a case pertaining to the possession of around 2,000 kilograms of explosives.

The CTD had brought the three suspects before the administrative judge of the ATCs, at the Judicial Complex within the premises of Karachi central prison and sought their physical custody for further interrogation.

The court remanded the trio in CTD custody until Jan 24 and directed the investigating officer (IO) to produce them on the next date along with a progress report.

According to the CTD, acting on a tip-off, law enforcers apprehended suspect Jalil alias Fareed in Rais Goth. Later, suspects Hamdan Qadir Buksh and Niaz Ali Muhammad were also arrested.

It claimed to have recovered 2,000 kilograms of explosives, 30 plastic drums and five cylinders, rigged with various detonators, and a truck. The police said they were planing to carry out a terrorist attack in the city. During initial grilling, Jalil disclosed that he had been allegedly affiliated with the proscribed Majeed Brigade of the BLA.

Regarding the truck, the suspect revealed that it was intended to be used at a targeted location in Karachi for a terrorist act.

The CTD had registered a case for the offences under Sections 4/5 of the Explosive Substances Act read with Sections 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act. On Monday,CTD officials told a press conference that the suspects had obtained the explosive material from Afghanistan.

Three suspected robbers shot dead in 'encounter'

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Police on Tuesday claimed to have gunned down three suspected robbers in an encounter in Pak Colony area.

They said that the suspects were involved in looting people coming out from banks.

Keamari SSP Amjad Ahmed Shaikh said the encounter took place between a police patrol and the bandits in the Jehanabad area. In an ensuing exchange of firing, three suspects were arrested in wounded condition. They were taken to the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi where they died during treatment.

The deceased were identified as Hanif Baloch, Gulab and Suleman. The police claimed to have recovered three pistols and mobile phones from their custody.

The SSP claimed that the killed suspects were members of a gang involved in looting citizens who drew cash from banks. He said that the police got CCTV footage showing suspect Gulab inside a bank searching for their potential targets.

He said that suspect Hanif was an active member of one of the gangs operating in Lyari.

He said that the third killed suspect, Suleman, was a habitual criminal.

There were 35 criminal cases registered against them at different police stations pertaining to bank and shop robberies, possession of illegal arms and encounter with police.